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**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 10:38 AM  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** City Council Public Hearing Testimony

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 HONOLULU, HAWAII

RE: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project - Final Environmental Impact Statement, June 2010

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of We Will Ride, a group of 400 young people organized through facebook and other social media sites, who support the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project. We believe that the Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project is the single most important project before our generation, and urge the City Council to work to begin construction on the project as expediently as possible.

The benefits of the rail project are many, and will be felt the most by Hawaii's young people:

**Construction of the rail line will put people to work immediately, especially members of our generation.** Beyond construction jobs on the line itself, the rail line will require engineers, architects, planners, and other specialists. The rail line will also induce employment in other sectors such as service and retail, as those employed directly on the project spend their money across the island.

**Over the long term, job growth and housing growth will be concentrated along the rail line corridor, and we will be the primary beneficiaries of this.** According to the economics section of the Draft EIS, high-tech jobs in bio-tech, research and development, and professional and business services are expected to develop in both Honolulu and other portions of the study region, and be a primary driver of job growth for our generation. Furthermore, with the great number of houses being constructed on the west side of the island and elsewhere, the share of Oahu's population living in the rail corridor will grow from 63% to 69% by 2030. We need transportation alternatives which will serve these new homes and jobs.

**Transit-oriented development will make more affordable housing options available for Oahu's young people.** Construction of the rail line will result in more walkable, liveable neighborhoods, and spark further community investment such as schools, stores, and other businesses.

**Rail will offer Hawaii's young people an easier way to go between home, work, school, and leisure centers.** Rail will connect Oahu's major colleges and universities, including UH-Manoa, HPU's downtown campus, HCC, LCC, and UH-West Oahu, as well the 46 public schools that lie within half-a-mile of the route. The rail line will also serve many of Oahu's malls, theaters, and entertainment hubs, such as Ala Moana, Ward Center, Blaisdell Center, Dole Cannery, Aloha Stadium, Pearlridge, and Pearl Highlands Center.

**Rail is great for the environment.** On Oahu, it will take 40,000 vehicles off our roads by 2030, greatly reducing our island's carbon footprint. Rail transit uses 35% less energy than single occupant vehicles and 50% less energy than trucks per passenger mile. The rail transit system will run on electricity, which can be derived from alternative energy sources such as H-Power, wind, solar, and ocean.

For these reasons and many more, the young people of Oahu urge you to work hard to achieve the goal of bringing sustainable transportation alternatives to this island.

Mahalo,

Wesley Perry

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